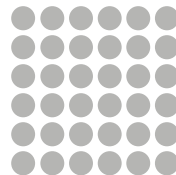


how to navigate the EES.

Western Outer Ring Main Pipeline Project





APA has prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Western Outer Ring Main Project. The EES, together with the pipeline licence application, are now available for public comment.

Written submissions can be made starting **Wednesday 7 July 2021** and closing **11:59pm on Tuesday 17 August 2021**.

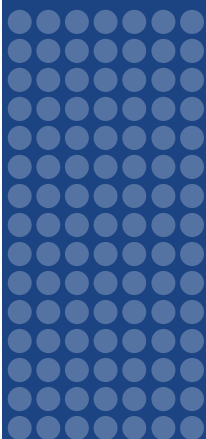
The EES and related documents provide information about the potential environmental, social and land use impacts of the proposed Project. The documents also outline how these potential impacts would be managed during construction and operation of the Project if it is approved.

About the Project

The Western Outer Ring Main Project is a proposed high pressure, buried gas transmission pipeline which will provide a new connection between the existing pipeline at Plumpton in Melbourne's west to the Wollert Compressor Station in the north.

The proposal for the Project includes:

- A buried pipeline, approximately 51 kilometres long.
- An additional Compressor and Regulating Station at the existing Wollert Compressor Station, owned by APA.
- Three main line valves and associated above ground components.
- Connections into APA's existing infrastructure at Plumpton and Wollert.





About the EES Process

On 22 December 2019, the Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an EES is required for the Project under the Environment Effects Act. Procedures for the EES were published and are available at:

www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/446980/EES-Procedures-and-Requirements.pdf

Read more about the EES process for the project at the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) website at:

www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/western-outer-ring-main-gas-pipeline

EPBC Act process

On 21 February 2020, the federal Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) issued a decision that the project is a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and that the Project will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria.

The relevant provision for this controlled action is listed threatened species & communities (section 18 & section 18A).

This EES considers Matters of National Environmental Significance for making a determination under the EPBC Act. You can make a submission on the matters assessed for the purposes of the relevant provisions under the EPBC Act, by making a submission on the EES.

After considering the Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment under the EE Act, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment will make a determination whether to approve the controlled action under the EPBC Act.

Pipeline approvals

A pipeline licence is required under the *Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic)* for the construction and operation of the pipeline.

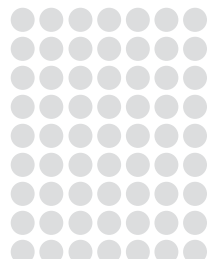
An application was made to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change on 30 June 2021. The application is included in the exhibited documents at Attachment I to the EES.

Any person who may be affected by the grant of the pipeline licence may make a written submission to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change about the application for the licence by following the EES submission process. All such submissions will be treated as submissions on the EES.

Community input

Since planning for the Project began in 2019, the Project has worked with stakeholders and the community to understand the views and concerns about the Project, to gather local knowledge about the existing environment in the vicinity of the Project, to explore opportunities to avoid or minimise potential impacts and to improve how we design, construct and operate the Project.

During the public exhibition period, you can make a written submission to share your views on the EES and related documents. Submissions will be considered as part of the EES Inquiry Process.



Navigating the EES

The EES and related documents are where you'll find information about the Project, including:

- How the project has been developed and assessed so far;
- An assessment of the potential impacts;
- Proposed measures to avoid, mitigate or manage potential impacts;
- 13 technical reports examining topics such as biodiversity and habitats, landscape and visual, safety, cultural heritage and social impacts;
- A map book showing the pipeline alignment; and
- Related statutory approval documentation.

This guide shows how the EES documents have been structured, so you can easily find the information you're interested in.

Where to read the EES and related documents:

- View the EES online at www.apa.com.au/worm/ees
- Request an EES information pack from the Project team.
- Copies of the EES will be made available at the following locations:

Caroline Springs Library & Learning Hub	193-201 Caroline Springs Blvd, Caroline Springs VIC 3023
Craigieburn Library	75-95 Central Park Ave, Craigieburn VIC 3064
Greater Beveridge Community Centre	Cnr Lithgow St and, Mandalay Cct, Beveridge VIC 3753
City of Whittlesea Civic Centre Office	25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang VIC 3752
State Library of Victoria	328 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions on Community Facilities. Please check the COVIDSafe Settings for metropolitan Melbourne for updates. www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-settings

For those who may have accessibility issues, or where electronic options are impractical, hard copies may be requested from the Project team, free of charge.

To request an EES information pack, or hard copy documents please contact APA VTS Australia (Operations) by phoning **1800 951 444** or emailing worm@apa.com.au

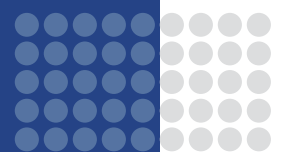


Find out what is covered in the EES





The full set of documents provides information on each topic at varying levels of detail. From the overall EES Summary brochure to technical studies that provide an extensive assessment on specific technical topic areas.

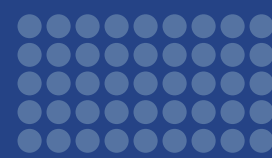
Here are some tips so you can find information you are looking for.





- **Start with the EES Summary brochure**
This document gives you a broad overview, the rationale for the Project, its potential effects and how they would be managed.
- **Main Report Chapters**
Each of the 20 chapters of the main EES report provides a comprehensive summary of studies and findings. The chapters range from around 20 to 60 pages in length.
- **Technical reports**
Each of the 13 technical reports detail the study, methodology, findings, impacts and proposed mitigation measures developed by independent technical specialists. These reports range from around 50 to 450 pages each.
- **Attachments**
Supporting studies, maps and the pipeline licence application.









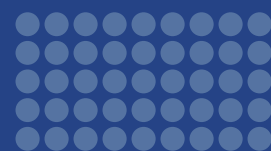
Pick a topic of interest:





Topic	Area of interest	Draft content
Project Overview	Introduction, Project Rationale, Development & Description 	<p>These chapters provide an overview of the Project, the purpose and structure of the EES, why the Project is needed, the objectives and benefits of the Project, an overview of how the Project has been developed and a detailed description of the Project. Read details in:</p> <p>Introduction (Chapter 1) Project rationale (Chapter 2) Project development and alternatives (Chapter 3) Project description (Chapter 4) Map Book (Attachment IV)</p>
	Key Approvals 	<p>Outlines the key approvals required under Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, and the assessment framework used to assess and mitigate potential Project impacts:</p> <p>Evaluation and assessment framework (Chapter 5)</p>
	Pipeline Licence Application 	<p>The formal application for a Pipeline Licence and all supporting documentation:</p> <p>Pipeline Licence Application and Construction Environment Management Plan (Attachment I)</p>
Biodiversity	Flora, fauna and habitats 	<p>Considers potential impacts on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity including habitats, flora and fauna, native vegetation and listed or protected species or communities that may occur in the local or regional environment around the Project. Also considers the Project's potential impact on known matters of national environmental significance as defined under federal legislation.</p> <p>Biodiversity (Chapter 7) Biodiversity and habitats (Technical Report A) Matters of National Environment Significance (MNES) (Chapter 18) Biodiversity Offsets Strategy (Attachment II)</p>



Topic	Area of interest	Draft content
Physical Environment	Surface Water 	<p>Considers potential impacts on existing watercourses and how the construction and operation of the Project may affect surface water quality and flow characteristics including potential impacts on the surround area.</p> <p>Water (Chapter 8) Surface Water (Technical Report B)</p>
	Waste, Contamination and Greenhouse Gas 	<p>Considers the potential impacts from disturbance of contaminated soils and contaminated groundwater from construction and operation of the Project.</p> <p>Considers greenhouse gas impacts associated with the Project. These studies also detail the Project's considerations for greenhouse gas, detailing mitigation strategies and sustainability opportunities within the project scope:</p> <p>Contamination & Greenhouse Gas (Chapter 10) Contamination (Technical Report E) Greenhouse Gas Technical Report H)</p>
	Groundwater 	<p>Considers the possible impacts of groundwater from construction and operation of the Project including potential impacts on beneficial uses of groundwater and existing bores.</p> <p>Groundwater (Technical Report C) Water (Chapter 8)</p>
	Land stability and ground movement 	<p>An assessment of the land stability and ground movement impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Project, including potential for sodic soils:</p> <p>Land stability and ground movement (Chapter 9) Land stability and ground movement (Technical Report D)</p>

Topic	Area of interest	Draft content
Amenity	Air Quality 	<p>Considers potential impacts the Project may have on air quality. Pollutants including dust, emissions arising from the construction works and associated emissions from operational activities are considered:</p> <p>Air Quality (Chapter 11) Air Quality (Technical Report G)</p>
	Noise and Vibration 	<p>Assesses potential impacts on sensitive receptors (such as homes, schools, place of worship and or sports club) during construction and operation:</p> <p>Noise and Vibration (Chapter 12) Noise and vibration (Technical Report F)</p>
	Landscape and Visual 	<p>Considers potential impacts on landscape character and the visual environment from construction and operation of the Project:</p> <p>Landscape and Visual (Chapter 14) Landscape and visual (Technical Report J)</p>
Safety, Hazard, Risk and Impact Management	Safety, Hazard and Risk 	<p>Describes the potential risk to people, property and community infrastructure from the Project and outlines the measures to be undertaken to reduce these risks as the project progresses:</p> <p>Safety (Chapter 17) Safety (Technical Report M)</p>
	Environmental Management Framework 	<p>Sets out the environmental management framework, monitoring and audit arrangements identified in the EES. Describes how these measures will be incorporated during construction, in statutory approvals and consents required for the Project. Sets out the management plans required for the Project.</p> <p>Environmental Management Framework (Chapter 19)</p>
Economy	Land Use 	<p>Considers the role of the Project in existing and changing land uses in proximity to the Western Outer Ring Main and surrounding suburbs. The study considers the current growth and land use planning in the broader region:</p> <p>Land Use (Chapter 15) Land Use (Technical Report K)</p>



Topic	Area of interest	Draft content
Community	Social & Agriculture 	<p>Considers the landowners directly impacted by the Pipeline and local neighborhoods, towns and recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Project for actual or perceived social impacts during construction and operation:</p> <p>Social (Chapter 16)</p> <p>Social (Technical Report L)</p> <p>Agricultural assessment included in Social (Technical Report L) as an Appendix</p>
	Stakeholder Engagement 	<p>Details the regular engagement and communication activities undertaken with local community and other stakeholders during planning and design stages of the Project. Feedback received has informed the Project, with further stakeholder engagement to be undertaken as the Project progresses:</p> <p>Community and stakeholder engagement (Chapter 6)</p> <p>Community and Stakeholder Consultation (Attachment III)</p>
Heritage	Cultural Heritage 	<p>Assesses the Project's construction activities and their potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values:</p> <p>Heritage (Chapter 13)</p> <p>Cultural Heritage (Technical Report I)</p>
	Historical Heritage 	<p>Considers the Project's potential impact on heritage places.</p> <p>Heritage (Chapter 13)</p> <p>Cultural Heritage (Technical Report I)</p>

What's in the EES Map Book?

The EES Map Book shows the Project pipeline alignment and construction corridor proposed, used to assess potential impacts. The EES Map Book includes the location of key Project features including key KP (Kilometre Points) along the alignment, road crossing locations, creeks crossed by the Project, facilities and standard design drawings.

The EES Map Book includes horizontal plans which show the project in plan-view on a satellite image. Each page shows a different section of the Project with a key in the top right-hand corner as a guide to the section on the page.

Please note: The reference alignment shown in the EES Map Book is not the final pipeline alignment and is based upon landowner negotiations to date. It has been refined during the preparations of the EES and may be subject to further changes to suit landowner requirements or to reduce environmental impacts.

The final alignment will be guided by the Minister for Planning's assessment of the EES, and any further outcomes that have arisen once the EES process is complete.

How to make a submission

Submissions on the EES and the pipeline licence application must be made in writing and be received by **11.59pm on Tuesday 17 July 2021**.

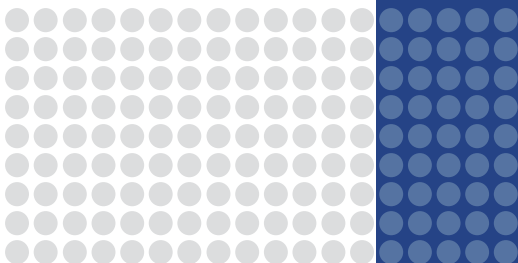
Each submission is a public document and will be treated as a submission on the EES and the pipeline licence application.

Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged via the Victorian Government's engagement website: www.engage.vic.gov.au/worm-inquiry

Where a submitter is unable to lodge a submission online, they must contact Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) through the DELWP Customer Call Centre on **136 186 (select option 6)** and request a hardcopy submission coversheet. Each hardcopy submission must be accompanied by a coversheet issued by Planning Panels Victoria (PPV).

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Petition responses will be treated as a single submission and only the first names from a petition submission will be registered and contacted.

Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the Victorian Government's engagement website. Do not include personal information in the body of your submission (such as your email address or phone number). Your submission and your name will be made public.





Who reads your submission?

The submission process is independently managed by PPV and any inquiries regarding the management of submissions and the Hearing process should be directed to them.

The Minister for Planning will appoint an Inquiry under the Environment Effects Act to review public submissions, the EES and consider the environmental effects of the project in accordance with terms of reference issued by the Minister for Planning. The Inquiry may also be appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change as a panel under the Pipelines Act to consider the pipeline licence application. If appointed as a panel, it must act in accordance with the requirements of the Pipelines Act and any specifications in its instrument of appointment.

After the exhibition period, the Inquiry will hold a Directions Hearing on **Monday 6 September 2021**, where the necessary arrangements and timetable for the public hearing will be established.

Further information about the Directions Hearing arrangements (including whether it will be held in person or conducted online by video conference) will be published on www.engage.vic.gov.au/worm-inquiry when determined. The Inquiry will follow the health advice from the Victoria Government and the Chief Health Officer in making this decision.

The public hearing process will commence on **Monday 4 October 2021** and will run for 2 – 3 weeks (as required).

Members of the public and any other parties seeking to be heard at the public hearing are required to submit a written submission and indicate on the submission form that they would like to be heard at the hearing.

Information on the hearing process and timetable will be published as it becomes available at: www.engage.vic.gov.au/worm-inquiry



In relation to the Project or EES Documentation

APA VTS Australia (Operations), Licencing and Approvals Lead

Level 14, 60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

PO Box 423 Flinders Lane, Vic 8009

Phone: **+61 3 8626 8400**

Fax: **+61 3 8626 8454**

Email: ***worm@apa.com.au***

In relation to making a submission or the Inquiry

Planning Panels Victoria

Phone: **136 186 (select option 6)**

Email: ***planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au***

In relation to the EES Process

Impact Assessment Unit, DELWP

Email: ***environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au***

In relation to Pipeline Licence Application

Pipelines Regulation, DELWP

Phone: **136 186**

Email: ***pipeline.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au***



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